

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A combine harvester having at its rear end separate chaff
2 and crop residue discharge openings, a chopper for cutting the
3 crop residue into small pieces, and a chaff discharge device for
4 dispersing the chaff exiting from the chaff discharge opening,
5 wherein the chaff discharge device is movable between a first
6 position in which chaff can fall to the ground without passing
7 through the chaff discharge device to lie in a string behind the
8 combine harvester and a second position in which the chaff
9 passes through the chaff discharge device and is dispersed
10 laterally away from the combine harvester, characterized in that
11 the chaff discharge device is further movable to a third
12 position in which chaff leaving the chaff discharge device is
13 directed to enter the chopper through an opening that is
14 different from the opening through which the crop residue is
15 admitted into the chopper.

1 2. A combine harvester as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 chaff discharge device is a spreader capable of spreading not
3 only the chaff but also the crop residue and wherein, in its
4 second position, the chaff discharging device lies in the path
5 of crop residue that does not enter the chopper so that both
6 unchopped crop residue and chaff are dispersed simultaneously by
7 the chaff discharge device.

1 3. A combine harvester as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in its
2 first position, the chaff discharge device permits access to the

3 chaff discharge opening to assist in maintenance of the combine
4 harvester.

1 4. A combine harvester as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 opening in the chopper, through which the chaff from the chaff
3 discharge device enters the chopper, is covered by a hinged
4 flap.